

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery  
1520 Harry Wurzbach Rd  
San Antonio, TX 78209

## Media Advisory

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### Improvement Projects Fort Sam Houston VA National Cemetery

**San Antonio, Jan. 19, 2017** --- Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery (FSHNC) has undergone several renovation projects in 2016 to improve their customer experience such as remodeling the old Administrative building for a new Public Information Center (PIC) and public restrooms; and resurfacing San Antonio Blvd. In addition, work continues with Southern Contracting, the contractor providing improvement to the cemetery's irrigation system.

Due to significant rain downfall over the last few months, some areas of Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery have dealt with heavy water accumulation. Cemetery staff would like to reassure the community, visitors and loved ones that the work with Southern Contracting is not complete and is ongoing. The contract will not be finalized until any issues due to rain accumulation have been checked and repaired if needed.

"Today, we are meeting with the Corps of Engineers and VA central office staff to evaluate our renovation projects and determine progress being made," said Elfrieda Robinson, Fort Sam Houston cemetery director. "Our approach is not to 'band aid' certain issues, but to make sure our renovation projects are sound, complete and working properly."

In addition, the cemetery looks forward to beginning a new 2017 renovation project to raise and realign flat-markers and renovate turf throughout the cemetery. "This will help with resettling of some of the headstones," said Robinson.

"We appreciate the support and understanding of our visitors during this time of renovations," said Robinson. "This has been a busy past year for us and the end result of our projects will have the updates needed to continue to honor our Veterans and their loved ones with the dignity they so rightly deserve."

Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery had more than 80,000 visitors this past year and "it is important to continue to improve and update to maintain the appearance of a National Shrine for our heroes," Robinson states.

If anyone has concerns or questions about Fort Sam Houston VA National Cemetery improvement projects or would like to volunteer at the cemetery please contact (210) 820-3891. The community is always welcome at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery and their visits are appreciated.

Since inception, the 151-acre cemetery has conducted more than 127,000 interments of veterans and immediate dependents. More than 160,000 veterans live in the San Antonio area.

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